



Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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Chad

President Deby Comments on Relations With Libya

AB1407191394 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French
1215 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] The Chadian and Libyan Governments have called for inter-African solidarity and for joint action between their two countries. This is the outcome of the first Chadian-Libyan Joint Commission meeting held in Tripoli yesterday. Chadian Prime Minister Kassire Koumakoye has underscored the solid fraternal relations existing between the Chadian and Libyan people, adding that the purpose of his visit to Libya was to strengthen relations between the two countries despite the existence of some cloudy patches. President Idriss Deby echoed the same sentiments when he talked to Jean-Claude Medome.

[Begin Deby recording] We believe Libya has implemented the verdict of the International Court of Justice [ICJ] and we also believe that the Aozou Strip problem is now settled for good. Of course, there could be the problem of an airfield, but we believe it is a problem that can solved under the agreements that we signed in Sidra, which define our borders in conformity with the ICJ decision, and we will find a solution under those conditions. We do not believe there is an Aozou Strip problem or any dispute whatsoever between Libya and Chad. [end recording]

Rwanda

Premier-Designate Arrives; Refugees Flee Ruhengeri

AB1407110794 Paris AFP in English 1047 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Report by Bernard Degioanni]

[Excerpts] Goma, Zaire, July 14 (AFP)—Tens of thousands of refugees have fled advancing Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) troops who captured the garrison town of Ruhengeri early Thursday [14 July], and pressed on towards the interim government base at Gisenyi, aid groups and Rwandan officials said.

Augustin Ndirabatswe, planning minister in the Hutu-led interim administration, said the Tutsi-dominated RPF had moved into the northern town of Ruhengeri overnight.

Meanwhile Faustin Twagiramungu, designated premier by the RPF, arrived in the capital Kigali Thursday and vowed to form a government of national unity "as quickly as possible."

The rebels were now within 25 kilometres (15 miles) of Gisenyi, on the Zairean border, where the cabinet of

interim premier Jean Kambanda had retreated ahead of the advancing RPF, he said.

The RPF advance had sparked a fresh flood of refugees into neighbouring Zaire, with tens of thousands of people, mainly women and small children, arriving at this Zairean border town shortly after dawn.

In Geneva, a spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, citing Zairean authorities, said about 100,000 refugees from Rwanda have crossed into the Goma region since Friday. [passage omitted]

Labour and Social Affairs Minister Jean de Dieu Habineza reported gunfire close to Gisenyi around 5:00 a.m. (0300 GMT), saying the shooting had sown panic among the civilian population. Habineza said government forces had fired several bursts of automatic gunfire "to test for an enemy presence. The RPF immediately fired back from the hillsides overlooking Lake Kivu."

The ministers, speaking in Goma, said Kambanda was still based at the Meridien Hotel in Gisenyi. Ndirabatswe said he was in Goma to aid the flight of the refugees pouring over the border into Zaire.

A member of the medical charity Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF, Doctors Without Borders) said: "The HCR (UN High Commissioner for Refugees) is going to be overwhelmed because there are more refugees than forecast."

On Wednesday the UNHCR had organised a site to accomodate some 50,000 new refugees.

A press spokesman for the French humanitarian mission "Operation Turquoise" said French soldiers would distribute food to the refugees.

Twagiramungu, speaking after his arrival in Kigali, said there would be "no negotiations, only consultations," with the RPF and the four other political parties which signed the Arusha accords in August 1993.

Under the accords, designed to end Rwanda's three-year-old civil war, Twagiramungu was to have formed a power-sharing government with President Juvenal Habyarimana's majority Republican National Movement for Democracy and Development, the moderate Hutu opposition and the RPF, but the plan was never implemented. [passage omitted]

In Paris, meanwhile French Cooperation Minister Michel Roussin said Thursday that France was equipping a 500-strong inter-African force which would take part in the French-led operation before joining the UN Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR II).

He said it was the Africans who had "chosen when to join Operation Turquoise to strengthen UNAMIR II. We have men from Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Congo, Chad and Nigeria."

He said the force would be equipped like any other unit engaged in peacekeeping operations and would arrive in Rwanda "in a few days for some and a few weeks for others."

Twagiramungu on Forming New Government

LD1407212494 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] [Announcer] In Kigali, life is resuming gradually in a town that is still quite empty, and in which the water and electricity supplies have not yet been restored. On the political front, Prime Minister Faustin Twagiramungu arrived in the Rwandan capital this morning. He immediately set to work to form his government. Monique Mas reports:

[Begin Mas recording] We must take account of the RPF's [Rwandan Patriotic Front] military victory, said Faustin Twagiramungu, so there will be military adjustments to the Arusha Agreement. I must also revise the list of the members of the government that I prepared in March, added the prime minister, as, in the meantime, the former single party has excluded itself from a share in power by the massacres. Many prospective ministers and deputies have been murdered. It is thus a question for the prime minister of making a list of the survivors and redistributing the five portfolios that were allocated in Arusha to President Habyarimana's party.

The RPF and its partners also have to make a decision about the political origin of the future presidents of the republic and speakers of the republic, but also the form the swearing-in ceremony should take, because the Constitutional Court chairman is dead. None of these questions should give rise to negotiations, said the prime minister, simply readjustments on the basis of the Arusha Agreement, he added, expressing the wish that the RPF's victory should truly be that of all Rwandans, a way of expressing the wish that the RPF should not take the lion's share for itself. However, above all, in the prime minister's view, things must be achieved quickly and the population reassured. Monique Mas in Kigali for RFI. [end recording]

[Announcer] The new Rwandan prime minister thus wishes to take measures to check the flight of several million of his fellow citizens. He explained to Monique Mas in particular that he was going to attempt to convince them to return to their homes:

[Begin recording] [Twagiramungu] The political line taken is going to have to be one that reassures the Rwandan people, and this line is now going to have to be taken by anyone who wants this country return to what it was before.

[Mas] How do you plan to make contact with them?

[Twagiramungu] I believe we absolutely must find the medium necessary, and the most important medium for us will be the radio, because the others also made use of

this means to poison people's minds. We must now use the same method to provide an antidote.

[Mas] Can you see yourself going to the areas where they themselves have fled?

[Twagiramungu] Why not? If it were safe then I would not hesitate for a moment to go out there to meet them.

[Mas] In the French safe zone, for example.

[Twagiramungu] Why not? Anyone is allowed to go there, I believe, and one does not have to have a passport. There I believe we could contact these people and persuade them to return home. [end recording]

Kagame Says Nothing Will Stop RPF's Advance

LD1507105094 Paris Radio France International in French 0630 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Excerpt] The stream of Rwandan refugees into neighboring countries continues to grow. It is even taking on the appearance of a human tide, and it is in order to deal with this drama that the UN Security Council met in an emergency session last night at France's initiative.

The solution agreed is a statement, which thus is not binding, but it nevertheless demands an immediate, unconditional cease-fire. The Council also calls for the relaunching of the political process in Rwanda, and the mobilization of humanitarian resources.

It remains to be seen whether this message will be heeded by the Rwandan Patriotic Front [RPF], which has just taken the town of Ruhengeri, in the northwest of the country. Our special correspondent, Monique Mas, who met Paul Kagame, the military head of the RPF, provides us with the rudiments of an answer to this question:

[Mas] General Kagame is very clear about it: The RPF has nothing more to negotiate with the Rwandan Armed Forces, the FAR. The only contacts he is prepared to continue are aimed purely at making it easier for soldiers wishing to surrender to cross the lines. He promises to guarantee their safety, and their future in the future national army. Previous contacts with the FAR command have never produced any results, says General Kagame. He believes that most of these leaders were a party to the massacres.

According to General Kagame, Ruhengeri fell on Thursday morning. The RPF is continuing on its way toward Gisenyi. Paul Kagame says that routes are being left open to allow the people to fall back, but nothing will prevent the military advance of the RPF, he says, not even the French safe zone. According to him it has served as a base for attacks by the FAR on the RPF during the last few days. In short, if there is a cease-fire, in General Kagame's view it will only be because the FAR have surrendered. [passage omitted]

Fleeing Government To Be Arrested if in Safe Zone

*LD1507102394 Paris France-Inter Radio Network
in French 1000 GMT 15 Jul 94*

[Text] On the subject of Rwanda, Paris has just announced that the members of the Rwandan interim government who have fled will be put under arrest if they run into the French soldiers in the zone protected by Operation Turquoise. Let me remind you that yesterday the interim president and his prime minister left Gisenyi, the seat of the interim government. Meanwhile the RPF [Rwandan Patriotic Front] is continuing its advance in the north. The rebel Tutsi troops are reported now to be about 15 km from Gisenyi.

UN Official on Logistics Problems, French Withdrawal

*AB1507100294 London BBC World Service in English
0600 GMT 15 Jul 94*

[From the "Network Africa" program, hosted by Rick Wells]

[Text] The United Nations Security Council has called for an immediate cease-fire in Rwanda, but will this have any effect on the ground? The call followed an appeal by France for an emergency session on Rwanda to discuss the deteriorating situation and avert a new humanitarian disaster. The 15-member council also called for an international mobilization of all available resources to aid the civilian population. On the line to New York just a short while ago, I spoke to the UN assistant secretary general for peacekeeping, Iqbal Riza, who gave me details of the Security Council's latest pronouncement.

[Begin recording] [Riza] The statement essentially endorses what has already been (?tried) on the ground by the special representative of the secretary general, (Lester Halm), which is to try and get a cease-fire as quickly as possible so that the humanitarian situation can be dealt with and the political process can be restarted. He has met the prime minister-designate of Rwanda today in Kigali. He has been in touch with the government side in Gisenyi, the force commander, General Dallaire, has been to the French zone. So, those efforts on the ground already are in progress.

[Wells] But, part of the problem seems to be that even if the RPF [Rwandan Patriotic Front] declare a cease-fire or say they will stop fighting, how is that going to be communicated to all these millions who are fleeing in fear of their lives?

[Riza] There are ways, there are the radios, and they will be in camps where there is communication. That is not the problem. The news will spread. The actual difficulty will be in establishing and stabilizing cease-fire lines and actually working out the terms for a cease-fire, making sure that those terms are implemented and trying to bring the two sides together at the table to resume the political process. It is going to be a very difficult,

complex task, especially since the special representative is the intermediary between the two sides and this is his main priority.

[Wells] With your special responsibility for peacekeeping at the United Nations perhaps you could tell us what happened to the proposal that the UN Security Council put forward a while back about putting African troops into Rwanda, some 5,000 or more. What has happened to that?

[Riza] I will gladly speak about that. Firstly, it was not directed at African troops. The resolution did not request African troops but the response to the appeal from the Security Council was mainly from African governments who have offered battalions that we requested, but these battalions need specialized equipment when they have to go into combat conditions and many of these countries do not have that equipment available. We have been trying to obtain equipment from countries who do stock it who have it available, mainly Western countries. Our efforts have now lasted well over a month, nearly two months, and they have not been very successful and so out of the 5,000 we only have a contingent of about 500 who arrived from Ghana who are still awaiting their armored personnel carriers which are still in Rwanda, being fitted. The others are still in their countries waiting for more (?fortunate) governments to provide the equipment, and I am afraid this is just illustrative of the conditions in which the United Nations is expected to place operations on the ground.

[Wells] And the French too are obviously asking the United Nations to try and help them to get out of Rwanda. In fact, their plan was to be out by the end of this month. Does it look as if, given what you have just said, that the United Nations is going to help in anyway maintain that security cordon they set up or anything along those lines?

[Riza] We have told the French that we will try and get these troops on the ground but it all depends on equipment. We simply cannot put them on the ground without transport, without communications, without defensive equipment. They would not be of much use. So, the French have promised that they will also try and get governments to provide this equipment. If by the end of this month, we are still in this situation, then the Security Council may well decide to ask the French to extend their stay. [end recording]

Zaire

Embassy Official Says Burundians Among Refugees

*EA1407212594 Bukavu Voix du Zaire in French
1630 GMT 14 Jul 94*

[Excerpts] We have just interviewed Sylvestre Marora, the Burundi consul general in South Kivu, about the situation in Burundi. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Consul, we have just learned that in the course of massacres in Burundi, Zairians were also slaughtered, precisely in Cibitoke. What are they accused of?

[Marora] As you know, since the assassination of President Ndaye on 21 October 1993, our country has been experiencing insecurity in some corners, especially in the northern part of the capital. The authorities on the spot are doing everything possible to restore peace for all but when bullets fly they do not choose their targets so Zairians may have died. We at the consulate here are not very familiar with the situation there but I wish to assure you that the authorities are doing everything possible to keep all foreigners residing in our country secure.

[Correspondent] Are there Burundians among the refugees crossing the border into Zaire? What are you doing to take care of them locally?

[Marora] Yes, there are Burundians. We are registering cases. We were recently informed that there are about 15,000 Burundians at the border between Rwanda and Zaire. They are still on Rwandan territory. In this context, we have contacted the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and asked them to take care of them, at least while in transit toward the settlement camps in Uvira Plain. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Mobutu Receives UN Envoy Beye on Angolan Crisis

AB1407150994 Kinshasa Tele-Zaire Television Network in French 1230 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko received Mr. Alioune Blondin Beye, UN special envoy in Angola, at Gbadolite on 12 July. They discussed the current Angolan peace talks in Lusaka. Here is a report:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] (?The two men examined outstanding) unresolved issues, including the status of the leader of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] and the fate of Huambo, currently under the control of the rebel movement. Armed with all these elements, in addition to information supplied in Pretoria to an associate of the Zairian head of state by General (Gato), Mr. Jonas Savimbi's henchman, President Mobutu makes no secret of his firm resolve to play a more effective role in the search for a solution to the long and costly civil war in Angola. To this end, the Zairian head of state does not lack trump cards, which include his exceptional experience and knowledge of actors of the Angolan tragedy as a former mediator between the leaders of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola and UNITA. [end recording]

President Mandela Discharged From Hospital

*MB1407170594 Johannesburg Radio South Africa
Network in English 1600 GMT 14 Jul 94*

[Text] The doctor who performed cataract surgery on President Nelson Mandela yesterday says he is very pleased with the overnight progress made by Mr. Mandela. He told our Johannesburg news staff that Mr. Mandela had already recovered 60 percent of his sight in his left eye. He said the additional surgery to improve the moisture retention of his eyes had also paid off. Mr. Mandela was discharged from hospital this morning.

To Visit Mozambique 20-22 Jul

*MB1407205294 Johannesburg SABA in English
2044 GMT 14 Jul 94*

[Text] Pretoria July 14 SABA—President Nelson Mandela will pay a three-day visit to Mozambique from July 20 to 22, his first state visit to a foreign country.

Mr Mandela will have discussions with President Joaquim Chissano and other prominent personalities and leaders, including Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance] leader Alfonso Dhlakama.

Bilateral relations between South Africa and Mozambique and the promotion of regional development will be discussed.

Modise: Defense Contracts With Israel To Be Honored

*TA1407163194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1505 GMT 14 Jul 94*

[Text] South African Defense Minister Joe Modise today explained for the first time in an interview with Qol Yisra'el the areas in which defense cooperation between the two countries continues. The minister reiterated his position yesterday in an interview with REUTER that these contracts have to be reassessed in view of Israel's policy toward the Palestinians, which he compared to apartheid. Gid'on Remez talked to Minister Modise:

[Begin recording] [Remez] The South African foreign minister issued a statement restricting Modise's remarks to only defense procurement, but when we spoke with the defense minister today, he did not recant that Israel's treatment of the Palestinians is racial discrimination similar to apartheid, a view he developed when he was in charge of the African National Congress's military arm, when he was assisted by the PLO and the Arab states.

[Modise, in English] We were always in contact with the Palestinians, and not only the Palestinians, a lot of Arab people, and we have always found ourselves concerned that the kind of oppression that was metered out to us on racial grounds was rather similar to the Palestinian one. Well, there is a contract that relates to the aircraft, the upgrading of the aircraft. There is also a contract that relates to the missile technology. We will look at it and see whether it is worth it.

[Remez] We will honor these signed contracts, but their renewal, and new contracts will be studied and a decision will be made based on whether they are worth it and on considerations mentioned earlier, the minister said. Referring to today's announcement by South Africa's military industry that there was never nuclear cooperation with Israel, Modise said he does not know about that. The announcement was not made with my approval, he said. [end recording]

British Trade Minister, Delegation Conclude Visit

*MB1407194394 Johannesburg SABA in English
1915 GMT 14 Jul 94*

[Text] Cape Town July 14 SABA—South Africa's economic and trade opportunities had unanimously appealed to the largest ever British ministerial trade mission to the country, President of the British Board of Trade Mr Michael Heseltine said on Thursday [14 July]. Speaking at the end of a five-day visit as head of a 68-member United Kingdom business delegation, he said there was no doubt that concrete partnerships would emerge between the two countries.

Mr Heseltine said he had been impressed by President Nelson Mandela's assurance that Finance Minister Mr Derek Keys's resignation would make no difference to government policies.

He believed the country would inevitably move towards political stability and stable economic policies. "It is very difficult to think of any serious obstacles that deter businessmen with good products or services wanting to operate in South Africa," he said.

British investments in South Africa total about R56 billion [rands] and Britain is South Africa's fourth largest trade partner.

"I want to see more investment in this country," Mr Heseltine said, adding the Reconstruction and Development Programme could only be enhanced by economic growth and international confidence.

Britain's role as the largest foreign investor in South Africa had been marked by 66 new ventures in South Africa in the past three years and which had been particularly successful in winning major orders. This, he said, was due to the very important part played by ECGD-backed (Export Credit Guarantee Department) finance in gaining new orders and making South Africa ECGDs' third-largest market for new business.

ECGD had more cover available for South Africa than ever and was backing 10 lines of credit into the local market.

Highlights of the tour included the launch of a new trade and investment campaign on Thursday—Opportunity South Africa—designed to boost bilateral trade and investment even further.

Mr Heseltine said South Africa's remarkable and peaceful transition to democracy would unleash economic forces that would be irresistible to the rest of Africa.

Asked if his discussions with Defence Minister Mr Joe Modise had covered South African Rooivalk attack helicopters being swapped for British corvettes, he said these talks could not be linked to procurement decisions. "We did not attend meetings to sell British products, but to listen to the assessments of the minister and senior military advisors on South Africa's strategic needs and opportunities for partnerships.

"The subject of procurement always comes up, but I was not here to get a foot in the door as a salesman."

South African tariffs did pose an obstacle to trade, but this was not insurmountable, he said.

Proof of this was the 66 British companies which had invested in South Africa in the past three to four years and that his country's two largest cellular phone companies had invested large amounts of money.

Mr Heseltine said Britain's own experience had shown that privatisation held enormous benefits by widening opportunities to exploit for funding political objectives.

Mr Heseltine's visit included signing an agreement which marked the beginning of the Commonwealth Development Corporation's investment operations in south africa.

He had also opened the crown agent's offices in South Africa, inaugurated a joint cellular telephone service and announced the British Government's R10-million pre-investment study team to help stimulate uk direct investment in South Africa to support private sector growth. The new centre for opportunity development in Cape Town would help overcome township unemployment as part of his government's promotion of enterprise development.

Mr Heseltine and his delegation are due to leave South Africa on Friday.

Civil Servants Protest Cabinet Advisers' Salaries

*MB1307124194 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1221 GMT 13 Jul 94*

[Text] Pretoria July 13 SAFA—The Public Servants Association on Wednesday criticised a decision by the cabinet allowing ministers to appoint personal staff on contract at salaries substantially higher than public service salaries. SABC [South African Broadcasting Corporation] radio news reported.

Association General Manager Caspar van Rensburg said the decision was confirmation by the government that the salaries of public servants were insufficient. The

Public Service League, the Natal Provincial Administration Personnel Association, the Afrikaner Handelsinstituut [Trade Institute], the Democratic Party and the Freedom Front have all criticised the decision.

Mr van Rensburg said the matter would be addressed in the public servants central bargaining chamber at its month-end meeting, along with concerns about affirmative action. He also said he had received many complaints about the way in which directors-general posts had been advertised.

Further on Support Staff Salaries

*MB1307164694 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1510 GMT 13 Jul 94*

[Report by Patrick Bulger]

[Text] Johannesburg July 13 SAPA—The cabinet has approved salaries for ministerial support staff far in excess of average civil service salaries. Public Service and Administration Minister Zola Skweyiya said on Wednesday: "I wish to confirm that cabinet recently approved a basis for the appointment of administrative supportive staff in ministries".

Dr Skweyiya did not deny reports of salaries of up to R194,099 [rands] for private secretaries to ministers. Details of the new scales were leaked to the media on Tuesday, provoking a storm of protest from political parties which warned of the crippling cost to the nation of an expensive and bloated civil service.

"The proposed remuneration packages under this arrangement include salaries and a cash value representing other fringe benefits," Dr Skweyiya said in a statement.

The new salary scales were approved by the cabinet on June 26. Dr Skweyiya said they were necessary "to provide for instances where career public servants are not appointed and to meet specific requirements of ministers and deputy ministers".

However, African National Congress sources said there was a revolt among ANC personnel, who had moved to the civil service when they discovered they would be earning less than they did working for the ANC. One source said there was "quite a lot of resentment". Some former ANC staffers had apparently walked out of their new civil service jobs when they received their first pay packet.

Dr Skweyiya said the new system was "aimed at ensuring cost-effective and efficient administrative support to ministers. "Special appointees differ from career public servants in that they do not have the same job security and do not qualify for promotion in the public service.

"I wish to emphasise that the different packages are the maxima which are payable. Each individual case will be considered and an appropriate remuneration level will be determined.

"Remuneration packages can therefore be much lower than the maximum levels.

"Cabinet emphasised that ministers must in the first instance strive to appoint career public servants before they resort to the exception of engaging special appointees on a common law contractual basis," Dr Skweyiya said.

Ministers will be allowed to appoint in this manner a private secretary, an assistant private secretary, an administrative secretary, a public relations officer, two ministerial typists, a registry clerk, a driver and a messenger.

Deputy ministers can appoint six staff members.

Dr Skweyiya listed the maximum salary scales as private secretary (R194,099), administrative secretary (R194,099), public relations officer (R194,099), assistant private secretary (R156,465), typist (R74,974), registry clerk (R71,674), driver (R59,569) and messenger (R34,736).

"The remuneration packages should be scaled down by approximately 33 per cent to get an indication of the maximum salaries payable," he said. This meant a typist, for example, would earn R130,000.

The issue provoked protest from political parties. The National Party [NP] said in a statement it supported the principle of support staff being appointed from outside the Civil Service in exceptional cases. It said the provision should not be abused to provide jobs for pals.

"The salaries which according to press reports are linked to these posts are exceptionally high. To expect the taxpayer to cough up for these salaries is unheard of," NP Information Director Marthinus van Schalkwyk said. He said the new civil service would be even bigger than that under the previous government.

"The gravy train that the ANC blamed (the previous government for) is now fully on track," he said.

The Conservative Party [CP] said it rejected the new scales and that it represented a covert form of affirmative action. The CP said the burden of paying would fall on the backs of white taxpayers.

Warring Factions in Tokoza Reach Cease-Fire Agreement

MB1407144194 Johannesburg Radio South Africa Network in English 1400 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] Warring factions in Tokoza on the East Rand have agreed to a cease-fire. Leaders of the township's self-defense units and hostel self-protection units reached the agreement at church-mediated talks. The rival units agreed to discipline their members and to cooperate with the government in organizing patrols. It was decided that the disarming of unit members would have to be coordinated with the government departments concerned.

Cease-Fire Reports 'Incorrect'

MB1507091594 Johannesburg Radio South Africa Network in English 0500 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Text] The future of township Self-Defense Units [SDU] and hostel Self-Protection Units [SPU] in Tokoza on the East Rand is to be discussed with the PWV [Pretoria, Witwatersrand, Vereeniging] government. It was reported earlier that the rival organizations had agreed to a cease-fire and to cooperate with the government in organizing patrols. A spokesman for church leaders who mediated between the two groups said, however, that reports claiming that the groups had agreed to disarm were incorrect.

Bill on Amalgamating 11 Police Agencies Drafted

MB1407180494 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1553 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] Pretoria July 14 SAPA—A draft bill to amalgamate 11 police agencies will be published in the Government Gazette on Monday [18 July]. Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi said in Pretoria on Thursday. The draft bill on the South African Police Services, among others, provides for an independent complaints directorate under the control of a civilian to scrutinise the conduct of police officials.

"It will provide a mechanism whereby every citizen can 'police the police'," Mr Mufamadi told a press conference.

Mr Mufamadi said the team which drafted the bill would welcome proposals or comment which would be submitted to a parliamentary standing committee. "We require direct and specific criticism and/or proposals," Mr Mufamadi said. Comment on the draft bill should be made in writing to the committee chairman, MP Peter Gastrow, before August 8.

The minister said the promulgation of a new Police Act was necessary. "A delay will lead to a delay in the appointment of a national commissioner and provincial commissioners. It will also mean a delay in the assignment of policing powers in the provinces."

Mr Mufamadi said the 11 police agencies were responsible for rendering services in different territories until the rationalisation process was completed. External and internal problems were being experienced in the amalgamation process and they could be solved only by the rationalisation which would begin once the act came into being.

NP Criticizes KwaZulu/Natal Premier Mdlalose

MB1407185994 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1839 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] Durban July 14 SAPA—The National Party [NP] in KwaZulu/Natal on Thursday [14 July] sharply criticised Premier Dr Frank Mdlalose for his angry response to criticism, saying he should instead "implement a policy of transparency in his office". An NP statement said Dr Mdlalose should "realise he is now a public

figure...and should in the spirit of democracy and effective government accept criticism".

The NP was reacting to a meeting between Dr Mdlalose and local journalists, called by the premier, at which he lambasted them for reports of the provincial government not functioning properly and the failure of MECs [member of the Executive Council] to keep appointments.

Dr Mdlalose said MECs were "not sitting on their backsides doing nothing" because the Executive Council had gone into recess for three weeks. He reiterated earlier statements that the second sitting of the provincial legislature stalled because bills for discussion had not been finalised.

Press reports have said the venue of the sitting is a central issue. An interim capital city has yet to be chosen.

The NP and Democratic Party have said issues are being unilaterally decided by MECs instead of being debated in the legislature, because a venue for the sitting remains undecided.

Dr Mdlalose on Wednesday announced a three-man commission to investigate a provisional capital until a choice is made by KwaZulu/Natal residents in a referendum planned for two years from now.

The NP said Dr Mdlalose's explanation for missing a meeting with a delegation of Tunisian investors was of no use after the fact. Dr Mdlalose said he had a prior engagement.

Provincial African National Congress leader Jacob Zuma also missed the meeting. He said he had informed the Tunisians in advance that he was unable to keep the appointment and had tried to reschedule it.

South African Press Review for 15 Jul

MB1507112:94

[Editorial Report]

THE STAR

Housing Policy—Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 15 July in a page-12 editorial comments on the "collision" between National Housing Minister Joe Slovo and Pretoria, Witwatersrand, Vereeniging (PWV) Premier Tokyo Sexwale on the housing issue saying, the "Sexwale initiative has stirred matters up timeously and unsettled what was beginning to look like a new housing orthodoxy. The negotiated route to housing policy—involving the National Housing Forum [NHF] and successive national Housing Ministers—has been tortuously slow. And, while the NHF is strong on representativeness, it is about as transparent as a lead apron." "With his contentious bid—which broke the 'rules' in its heavy reliance on the private sector—Sexwale has effectively staked a claim for a more differentiated policy framework. Further, the whole affair underscores the need for regional housing boards to be plugged into provincial

planning structures, rather than operating purely within the framework set by the National Housing Board."

BUSINESS DAY

Union Leadership Loses Control—Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English on 15 July in a page-10 editorial notes that the South African Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers' Union (SACCAWU) behind the Pick 'n Pay strikes, "has never been the most stable union, having been riven by internal disputes for more than a decade. The present case would not be the first in which a retailer has suffered costly strikes as leaders heading different factions jockeyed for power by attempting to outshine their opponents." SACCAWU's "already fragile structures have been further weakened by the recent departure of its general secretary Papi Kganare for the [Orange] Free State provincial legislature and the loss of other experienced officials to politics and government." "There are strong signs that what passes for SACCAWU leadership has lost control."

Israel-RSA Relationship—"Defence Minister Joe Modise's outburst against Israel has forced his government into a damage-limitation exercise and, after some dutiful expressions of mutual goodwill, emotions will subside," notes a second editorial on the same page. "Neither country, however, should believe that the past cosy relationship will necessarily continue." BUSINESS DAY believes Minister Modise "is right to be outraged at reports that Israeli agents have been murdering South Africans, but few governments have clean hands." International relations "should not be determined by anger or prejudice, but by a level-headed appraisal of this country's best interests."

SOWETAN

Israel-RSA Relationship—"Defence Minister Joe Modise is aggrieved, no doubt and even has the gumption to call the Israeli state's policies as no different from apartheid," notes a page-8 editorial in Johannesburg SOWETAN in English on 15 July. But "Modise must watch his utterances, lest he discover he is shooting his own foot. In our view, tackling this matter on a diplomatic front is better than a confrontationalist approach."

NEW NATION

Plans To Sabotage RDP—Johannesburg NEW NATION in English on 15 July in its page-8 editorial refers to revelations that officials of the Development Bank of South Africa (DBSA) "embarked on a conspiracy to deceive the country and sabotage the Reconstruction and Development Plan." "When we examine the disdain and disrespect with which DBSA managers pronounce on the capacity of our elected leaders to succeed in the implementation of the RDP [Reconstruction and Development Program], it becomes clear just how alive apartheid is in the bank and our civil service." But "we would be underestimating the determination of the previous administration to reverse the democratic victory achieved at the polls in April if we believe that cleaning out the DBSA alone will be enough to secure the RDP."

NEW NATION notes that while many ministries are headed by ANC appointees, they "remain hostage to hostile bureaucracies." Therefore, "where the need is identified, government should not hesitate to resort to radical surgery to cut out the rot. And the starting point must be the controlling structure of the DBSA."

WEEKLY MAIL & GUARDIAN

Sexwale Housing Plan, Presidency Contender—The page-26 editorial in Johannesburg WEEKLY MAIL & GUARDIAN in English for 15-21 July refers to PWV Premier Tokyo Sexwale's housing plan, saying it is "a serious attempt to come to grips with the financing of mass

housing in a country where two-thirds of township residents, either jobless or low-income earners, are considered credit risks by the financial community." The plan's weakness lies in its "vagueness," and the last thing the government needs is a "large-scale defaulting on mortgage repayments and a bond boycott campaign." The paper also refers to the encounter between Housing Minister Slovo and Sexwale, saying "Sexwale's weakness, and Slovo's trump card, is that state guarantees are central to the private investment the programme requires." "There is also a fascinating political dimension. Sexwale—by all accounts an ambitious and popular man—could be positioning himself as a third contender for the next state presidency, alongside Vice-President Thabo Mbeki and ANC general secretary Cyril Ramaphosa."

Angola**Mediator To Present New Document on Reconciliation**

MB1407200394 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 1900 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Report by Alves Antonio in Lusaka]

[Text] This afternoon the government and National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] negotiating teams stated their standpoint on the mediator's base document regarding the implementation of the modalities for national reconciliation still being discussed, to bridge certain differences. In order to narrow the negotiating delegations' differences, within the next few hours the mediator will draft a new document, which will then be submitted to both sides for assessment. Radio Angola has learned that UN special representative Alioune Blondin Beye will present the new document tomorrow. The implementation of the modalities for national reconciliation include issues regarding UNITA's participation in governing the country and the extension of the state's central administration throughout the Angolan territory.

UN Official on Forces Needed After Lusaka Accord

MB1507092894 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 0600 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Excerpt] The United Nations will deploy eight troop battalions in Angola, should the Lusaka peace talks result in an accord. This was disclosed by Nigerian General Chris Garuba, head of the UN Angola Verification Mission-2. He told Radio Angola that, should the Lusaka talks prove successful, his organization will need six infantry battalions, one logistics battalion, and one mechanized battalion. [passage omitted]

UNITA Denies Joint Operations With FLEC in Cabinda

MB1507070394 Jamba Voz da Resistencia do Galo Negro in Portuguese 0600 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Text] National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] military sources have told the Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel, Vorgan, that the Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FALA] have not been involved in joint operations with the Front for the Liberation of the Cabinda Enclave, FLEC, in Cabinda Province. Those military sources noted that the UNITA armed forces are in Cabinda just as they are in Moxico, Dondo, or in Cuando Cubango. A FALA officer told Vorgan yesterday that the UNITA forces have been entrusted with a clear mission, namely to defend the interests of all Angolan people.

UNITA Claims Russia Selling Weapons to MPLA

MB1507072494 Jamba Voz da Resistencia do Galo Negro in Portuguese 0600 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Sources in the Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FALA] General Staff said yesterday that Boris Yeltsin's Russia remains an imperialist power determined to destabilize African (?democracies) [words indistinct] those FALA sources described as counterproductive Russia's initiative to energize the arms market in Africa at large, and in Angola in particular. Interests alien to Africa hide behind this devastating war. Russia has been the principal instigator of this war since the days of the cold war. It has also always been the main supplier of arms to the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola-Labor Party, MPLA-PT. [passage omitted]

Envoy Denies France Supplying Weapons to UNITA

LD1407205494 Lisbon Radio Renascenca in Portuguese to Europe 2000 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] The French ambassador in Luanda has said that the French Government does not supply weapons to National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA]. Francois Gendreau, French ambassador in Angola, stated that the allegations according to which French weapons are rerouted from Rwanda to UNITA, are not true. The French diplomat stressed that France has always supported and respected UN Security Council Resolution 864 on the embargo of weapons and oil derivatives imposed on UNITA.

UNITA Radio on Prospects for U.S. Investment

MB1507072594 Jamba Voz da Resistencia do Galo Negro in Portuguese 0600 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Text] The United States [words indistinct] Angola's economic (?development) should help the Angolan people find a peaceful settlement, so that investment projects can be implemented in a country at peace. This is how Angolan political observers reacted yesterday to the news that U.S. businessmen were visiting Luanda.

Those sources have told the Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel that foreign investment has to be risky in a country at war, adding peace should be sought first. The National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, UNITA, believes that foreign investment should be beneficial to the country, but it also believes that the capital put forward by investors should enjoy security. Furthermore, UNITA's economic policy stresses the importance of developing Angolan cadres [words indistinct].

Correction to UNITA Reacts to Proposal

MB1207120794

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "UNITA Reacts to Proposal; Accord Imminent," published in the 12 July Sub-Saharan Africa DAILY REPORT, page 21:

First column, fifth paragraph, first sentence, make read: ... "proposes a neutral figure to govern Huambo Province." (supplying missing word "figure")

Lesotho

Botswana, Zimbabwe Agree To Military Intervention

MB1507091494 Johannesburg Radio South Africa Network in English 0500 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Text] The Governments of Zimbabwe and Botswana have approved military intervention as part of a southern African effort to restore order in Lesotho. A Zimbabwean Government spokesman said in Harare that Botswana and Zimbabwe had agreed to send troops to Lesotho where army mutinies continue to threaten the kingdom's democratically elected civilian government. He said that South Africa would not send troops because it wanted to solve its domestic problems first.

Government Denies Reports

MB1507121194 Maseru Radio Lesotho in English 1130 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Text] The Office of the Prime Minister this morning issued a statement on foreign media reports relating to the alleged deployment of troops from Botswana and Zimbabwe to Lesotho. The statement said the report over the SABC's Radio Sesotho in connection with the so-called deployment of troops to Lesotho by Botswana and Zimbabwe, to help quell disturbances in the country, was devoid of any truth whatsoever and can only be described as irresponsible lies aimed at destabilizing the peace and stability that is currently being enjoyed by the Basotho nation.

The statement said that the unfortunate reports came only a few days after the right honorable the prime minister, Dr. Ntsu Mokhehle, had extended a warm welcome to the commission of inquiry into the recent events related to the Lesotho Defense Force. The members of the commission have been sent to Lesotho by the presidents of Botswana, Zimbabwe and South Africa. They expressed appreciation of the opportunity accorded them by the government of Lesotho to help in finding a solution to the problems that confront the government of Lesotho over the situation in the defense force. The Radio Sesotho report could only be the work of prophets of doom who were not well disposed to the present efforts to return Lesotho to complete normalcy.

In dismissing the foreign media reports on the so-called deployment of Botswana and Zimbabwe troops to Lesotho, Zimbabwe's defense minister, Mr. Moven Mahachi, said in an interview in Harare yesterday that Zimbabwe had not sent troops to Lesotho and had no intention of doing so.

Government, Opposition Officials on Army Inquiry

MB1507065394 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Interview with Information Secretary Seso Serutla and BNP leader Evaristus Sekhonyana in Maseru by Josephine Hazeley in London; date not given; from the "Focus on Africa" program—recorded]

[Text] An international commission of inquiry has been appointed in Lesotho to look into the recent crisis in the country's army. There have been a series of mutinies since the end of last year over pay, though there is much speculation of an incipient coup against Ntsu Mokhehle's elected government. Soldiers were killed in clashes, ministers were abducted, and the deputy prime minister was murdered. The commissioners are army officers from Botswana, South Africa, and Zimbabwe. The commission will investigate the structure, recruitment, and training of the Lesotho Defense Force, the role of officers, and the demands of the mutinous soldiers. On the line to Maseru, Josephine Hazeley asked the permanent secretary in the Ministry of Information, Seeiso Serutla, if the army had welcomed the inquiry.

[Begin recording] [Serutla] They have not complained.

[Hazeley] How will the examination be carried out?

[Serutla] You know that the composition of the commission is made out of countries from the southern African countries, namely, Zimbabwe, Botswana, South Africa, and the local people in Lesotho together with the commanders of the army who, I think, will be the ones providing evidence.

[Hazeley] So, the rank and file will also be questioned or have they been excluded?

[Serutla] No, I don't think that is closed, I don't think that is closed, I mean, there ought to be somebody at a reference point, but I think the commission has the power to call on anybody within the defense force to appear before them. Already the members of the public are represented, particularly the political parties, together with members of the churches in Lesotho, and I think definitely that they will go out of their way to see how the general public feels about the situation in Lesotho. In other words, my emphasis is that it is not closed in any way. It is quite an open exercise.

[Hazeley] But, why do you need foreigners to examine your army? Why can't you do it yourselves?

[Serutla] Because we wanted somebody with military expertise. If we are going to investigate the army, we need people who do actually know what the army is, and therefore we had to call on our friends for that reason, and also another reason is the question of being fair. Already there are many things that have happened in this country and I don't think that anybody within the government will appear to be fair and objective. [end recording]

Well amid all the speculation that the mutinies might topple the Lesotho Government, there were also hints, vigorously denied that the opposition Basotho National Party, BNP, was somehow implicated in the upheavals. Josephine Hazeley asked Evaristus Sekhonyana, the BNP's leader, what he thought of the commission of the inquiry.

[Begin recording] [Sekhonyana] We are not against the commission. What we have frowned upon has been the manner in which the commission has been made, but the terms of reference of the commission have gone beyond the events of January.

[Hazeley] What do you mean?

[Sekhonyana] Well, the terms of reference have included asking the commission even to make recommendations into the desirability of Lesotho to have even an army, to look into the performance of the army, to look into the efficiency of the army, to look into the recruitment, including the inclusion of the former military bandits called the Lesotho Liberation Army [LLA], to be included into the national army. Now, these are the preserve by constitution of the Defense Commission. If the Defense Commission itself wanted to make its own commission, I have got no problems.

[Hazeley] You are objecting to some of the terms of reference there. Why are you objecting? Is it because you are fearful that links that you may have with the army might be brought out into the open for all to see?

[Sekhonyana] My dear, sticking to the constitution does not reflect any fear. If it is a commission, it has got to be legal. We cannot allow illegal acts, whether they are done by government, you have got to stay within the legal framework. That is the issue. As far as being afraid of what will come up, but I am not afraid of anything, because I haven't done anything, I am not linked to any army. This is a national army. It is the government which wants to dilute the neutral character of the national army by bringing its own political soldiers in the form of the LLA. I think common decency does not allow that. A royal commission should have been made, rather than a commission by the prime minister himself, because he himself is a subject of the commission. [end recording]

Opposition Petitions King Letsie III To Step Down

MB1407203594 Gaborone Radio Botswana Network in English 1910 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] Lesotho's opposition Basotho National Party, BNP, presented a petition to King Letsie III today asking him to step down in favor of his deposed father, the former King Moshoeshoe II. The petition also called on King Letsie to dismiss the Basotho Congress Party [BCP] government of Prime Minister Ntso Mokhehle and form a government of national unity.

Hundreds of BNP supporters joined a procession through Maseru to hand over the petition, which was given to an official of the king's office, Mr. Thabo Moeketsi. The BCP won a sweeping victory over the BNP in March last year in the first multiparty elections in two decades, which also ended 6 years of military rule.

The government is forming a commission of inquiry into fighting in January between two factions in the 2,000-strong army that spilled over into the streets of the capital. Lesotho was rocked by a further army mutiny in April, in which the deputy prime minister was shot dead and a strike by junior police and prison officers over pay.

Mozambique

Renamo Threatens To Use Force To Restore Order

MB1407185094 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1730 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] The Mozambique National Resistance [Renamo] advisers to the Maputo provincial government have threatened to use an infantry battalion to restore order in areas under its control, because they claim the Mozambique Liberation Front [Frelimo] has been authorizing projects without its knowledge. This was disclosed by Maputo Province Governor Raimundo Bila, citing statements by businessmen and residents of Ponta Malangane. Bila said he is surprised by the advisers' attitude, describing it as dangerous especially because it comes at a time when government and Renamo troops are being demobilized.

Meanwhile, the advisers accused Frelimo Party secretaries at grass roots levels of cattle rustling. The secretaries based their claim on a sentence passed by the Manhica District Tribunal, condemning the first Frelimo Party secretary for Josina Machel Isle's administrative region to a 7 million meticul-fine after being found guilty of involvement in the theft of 70 goats. The complainant is Agostinho Cossa, who asked the provincial governor to take action. The Renamo advisers say they have other details about the involvement of Frelimo Party officials in cattle rustling.

Liberia

Official on NPFL Ambush of ECOMOG Vehicle

*AB1407220094 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French
1830 GMT 14 Jul 94*

[Text] The chief of staff of the Economic Community of West African States Cease-Fire Monitoring Group [ECOMOG] has announced that two days ago fighters of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia [NPFL] ambushed an ECOMOG vehicle and kidnapped a peace-keeper. The incident occurred on the Kakata road, about 30 km north of Monrovia, in ECOMOG-controlled territory. Two NPFL fighters emerged from the bush and forced the vehicle to stop. About 100 men rushed to the scene, deflated the tires of the vehicle, badly damaged it, and then fled back into the bush abducting one peace-keeper, according to Commando Williams.

Sierra Leone Minister Said Developing Peace Plan

*AB1407225594 Gbarnga Radio ELBC in English 1400
GMT 1400 GMT 14 Jul 94*

[Text] [Word indistinct] reliable reports have emerged that the foreign minister of Sierra Leone, Dr. Abbas Bundu, is unilaterally developing a plan of action for Liberia to be submitted to the Committee of Nine which will subsequently be turned over to ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States] heads of state as the working document for the revision [as heard] of the Liberian crisis.

The NPFL [National Patriotic Front of Liberia] has strongly denounced the plan, stating unequivocally that the Liberian situation is one that requires the involvement of all the parties in all matters relating to the resolution of the Liberian conflict. The NPFL says the involvement of the parties is not only a right but will facilitate smooth deliberations on the Liberian situation by the time [words indistinct] on the table before ECOWAS heads of state.

However, the Abbas Bundu plan, which is intended to thwart peace in Liberia, is being pursued with the chairman of the State Council, Professor David Kpomakpor, being dragged into the scheme under the disguise of using the Mano River Union countries. The NPFL has clearly stated that the parties and the people of Liberia will not accept any process on the Liberian situation if they are not participants in that process.

Nigeria

Strike Leaders Refuse Government Offer

AB1407141794 Paris AFP in English 1406 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Report by Ade Obisesan]

[Excerpts] Abuja, July 14 (AFP)—A specially created court in the Nigerian capital Abuja Thursday [14 July] refused a

bail application from detained opposition leader Moshood Abiola and set the start-date of his trial on treason charges for the end of the month. [passage omitted]

Thousands of supporters, including lawyers and politicians, turned up outside the hearing, chanting "Abiola is our president," and lying down in the road outside the court.

The arrested politician is the centre of a major strike movement in Nigeria pitting unions against the nine-month military government ruled over by General Abacha. [passage omitted]

The pressure for Abacha to resign and hand over power to Abiola, at the head of a government of national unity, has grown since the start of last week with striking oil workers joined this week by bank and office workers.

Traffic has virtually ground to a halt in Lagos, the economic capital, and flights have been disrupted at Abuja and Lagos airports.

Thousands of managers in the oil industry joined the strike Tuesday, as well as workers on off-shore oil rigs. Exports of crude oil account for around 85 percent of the government's revenue.

On Wednesday, the government appeared to try to appease the strikers by offering after a meeting of the national executive council to release their detained leaders. [sentence as received]

However, oil union president Wariebi Agamene said Thursday the offer fell short of the strikers' demands and that the strike would continue until Abacha handed over power to Abiola.

Oil workers had refused to meet government officials Wednesday to discuss their demands because the meeting offered was not sufficiently high-ranking and because their security was not guaranteed.

Meanwhile, the state-run Radio Nigeria reported Thursday that workers at the major Warri refinery which supplies much of northern Nigeria with its crude oil, have called off their strike.

Agamene said the report was "completely misleading and false."

The Nigerian Electricity Corporation on Tuesday warned that it would have to start turning off electricity supplies around the country soon as its power stations are being starved of needed gas. It has already started power-rationing, the company said.

Abiola Trial Set for 28 Jul

AB1407140194 Paris AFP in French 1331 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] Abuja, 14 Jul (AFP)—The Federal High Court, Abuja, has set 28 July as the date on which hearing will open in the trial of Moshood Abiola, main opposition leader, an AFP reporter present at the court noted.

Justice Mustapha also ordered that Mr. Abiola remain in custody until that date. Abiola declared himself president of Nigeria on 11 July, maintaining that he won last year's presidential election whose results were later annulled by the ruling military junta.

Drivers' Strike Ends in Benue

*AB1407192894 Kaduna Radio Nigeria in English
1700 GMT 14 Jul 94*

[Text] Long queues of vehicles have again resurfaced at most filling stations as a result of fuel scarcity in Benue State. Our correspondent reports that the scarcity followed strike action by senior staff of the Makurdi depot of the NNPC [Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation]. Few of the filling stations which lifted fuel last Tuesday [12 July] had exhausted the stock of the commodity.

Meanwhile, the petroleum tanker drivers' strike has been resolved following the reinstatement of the State Chairman Alhaji Musa Mohamed. A statement by the three caretaker committee members of the union explained that the suspension of the chairman was done on provocation. The drivers, who expressed regret over the action, told their chairman that they would start to lift fuel whenever the strike action by the senior staff of the NNPC was over.

Union Leader Asks Members To Disregard NLC Ultimatum

*AB1407182594 Lagos Voice of Nigeria in English
1700 GMT 14 Jul 94*

[Text] The national vice chairman of Independent Petroleum Marketers Association, Alhaji Bashir Yeron Baba, has called on all members and petroleum tanker drivers to disregard the ultimatum issued by the NLC [Nigeria Labor Congress] on the recent political program. Alhaji Bashir advised that the NLC should adopt dialogue to resolve the problem amicably instead of resorting to industrial action which, according to him, will compound the issue. He further advised the labor leader to allow [word indistinct] detainees to defend their cases before the courts instead of using workers to achieve their aim. The national vice chairman advised that the

NLC should consider as top priority improvement of workers' welfare and protection against any form of harassment.

Meanwhile, a cross section of people in the streets, especially public servants, condemn the NLC threat of industrial action.

Conference Delegates Deplore State 'Marginalization'

*AB1407152994 Lagos Voice of Nigeria in English
1030 GMT 14 Jul 94*

[Text] Delegates at the Nigerian National Constitutional Conference have been debating on some of the issues affecting the development of Nigeria. They range from the economy to politics. Yesterday, Wednesday, one of the issues that received prominence was the alleged neglect and marginalization of a section of Nigeria. Our correspondent Ali Othman, who covered the session, filed in this report.

[Begin Othman recording] Debate on the general [word indistinct] of Nigeria's constitutional conference, which began Tuesday [12 July] continued Wednesday with most speakers complaining of marginalization and neglect of their areas by the country's administrations. Delegates from the oil-producing areas grudged government for inadequate attention to the developmental needs of their areas or states. They also complained about poor sharing formula for profit of oil tapped from their areas and suggested that the conference should institute a constitutional proviso to remedy the situation. Some speakers attributed the neglect of some parts of the country to the elites who were in charge of national resources. A delegate from Katsina State in his contribution urged all those crying marginalization and neglect to produce statistical data to authenticate their claims.

Election rigging as a (?potent threat) to democracy in Nigeria was also observed by several delegates. A speaker specifically proposed October 1995 to be the terminal date for the current military. Two speakers from Lagos and Ogun States suggested that government should provide a forum to discussing the annulled June 12, 1993 election. They called for the release of all pro-democracy detainees and Chief M.K.O. Abiola. [end recording]

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